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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/699,893

11/03/2003

Mark McGarry

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02/22/2006

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, THINH H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2861

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/699,893

Applicant(s)

MCGARRY ET AL.

Examiner

Thinh H. Nguyen

Art Unit

2861

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 56-58 and 60-65 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19-39 and 51-55 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 17, 18, 40-44, 50 and 59 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-16 and 45-49 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/3/03; 5/16/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-55, and 59 (invention group I) filed January 17, 2006 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-5, 17-18, 40-44, 50, and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by prior of record to Yamazaki et al. (EP 1329322)

Re claims 1-5, 17-18, 40-44, 50, in particular, Yamazaki (with reference to figs. 4, 5, and 9; col. 11, line 15 – col.12, line 13) discloses the instant claimed printing system and related printing method, including a printhead assembly comprising:

a first ink reservoir (as shown by sub tank 87; fig.9);

a support (see fig.4);

a first fluid conduit fluidly coupled to the ink reservoir and including a first fluid coupler (as shown by line connecting valve 105 and sub-printhead assembly 35-1, 35-2; fig.9); and

a printhead assembly (37) including:

a body releasably coupled to the support (see fig.4);

a plurality of printheads (34) coupled to the body including a first printhead and a second printhead (34);

a fluid passage (as shown by line directly connected subhead 35-1 to 35-2; fig.9) fluidly coupled to both the first printhead and the second printhead, the fluid passage including a second fluid coupler releasably coupled to the first fluid coupler (as shown by line connecting valve 105 and sub-printhead assembly 35-1, 35-2; fig.9).

Re claim 2, 41, wherein the plurality of printheads are releasably coupled to the body. (see fig.4)

Re claim 3, 42, wherein the fluid passage includes a plurality of third fluid couplers and wherein the plurality of printheads includes a plurality of fourth fluid couplers releasably coupled to the third fluid couplers. (as shown by line directly connected subhead 35-1 to 35-2; fig.9)

Re claim 4, 43, wherein at least one of the plurality of third fluid couplers and at least one of the plurality of fourth fluid couplers are keyed to one another; (as shown by line directly connected subhead 35-1 to 35-2; fig.9)

Re claim 5, 44, wherein the first fluid coupler and the second fluid coupler are keyed to one another. (as shown by line directly connected subhead 35-1 to 35-2; fig.9)

Re claim 17, 50, wherein the plurality of printheads are staggered relative to one another. (see fig.5)

Re claim 18, wherein at least one of the first fluid coupler and the second fluid coupler is configured to block flow of fluid when in a disconnected state. (see valve 105)

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 19-39, 51-55 are allowed over the prior art of record.
5. Claims 6-16, 45-49 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR)

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to examiner Thinh Nguyen at telephone number (571) 272-2257. The examiner can generally be reached

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Mon-Wed, and Thurs from 9:00A – 5:00P. The official fax phone number for the organization is (571) 273-8300. The examiner supervisor, Dave Talbott, can also be reached at (571) 272-1934.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.



Thinh Nguyen

February 20, 2006

Thinh Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2800